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RIGHTS AT WORK

...in environmental law

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of the people

American society has within its fabric a system for insuring that kind of consideration: the judicial process. Illinois state government has woven that system directly into its environmental protection program.

In Illinois, environmental decisions are made not by one man, but by the Pollution Control Board, one of three independent sister agencies which provide checks and balances for each other.

The Board is a full-time, paid panel of professionals, with thorough backgrounds in law, environmental science, and engineering.

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by the people

The Illinois program yields environmental decisions based on:

- *Open public hearings, to allow scrutiny by the press and by private citizens, and to permit and encourage public participation

- *Recorded, sworn testimony, to insure that the truth is dealt with seriously

- *Cross-examination, to expose half-truths and untruths

- *Rules of evidence, to protect against misleading or inaccurate documentation

- *Written decisions and opinions, to explain the reasoning behind decisions and avoid misunderstanding as to what action is required

- *Right of appeal, to afford the opportunity for review when decisions seem objectionable.


for the people



In this system, the Environmental Protection Agency plays the part of a legal counselor, filing cases through the Attorney General's office, presenting evidence and testimony, and recommending standards or exceptions.

The final decision, however, is the responsibility of the Board, after hearing also from interested private citizens, businesses, municipal representatives, or organizations.

The Illinois program is designed to protect the rights of all parties. Just as it aims to protect health and well-being, it is equally concerned with due process.



environment

Environmental issues involve people, every one of us. We are usually part of the problem, and must directly be part of the solution, if there is to be one.

Frequently complex and far-reaching in their consequences, environmental issues demand the most reasonable, impartial, balanced consideration.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Box Two
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706



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